

Appl. No. : 10/009,002
Filed : January 14, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 6, line 25 and ending on page 7, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3 shows alignment of the 3' UTR sequences of GBV-B. The sequence of the infectious clone of GBV-B (pGBB) is shown at the top (nts. 9038-9399 of SEQ ID NO: 1). The other sequences shown are: pGBB5-1, a non-infectious clone of GBV-B; GBV-B, a prototype of GBV-B (Simons 1995); eleven "gb" clones obtained from CT 11/91 liver homogenate by 5' RACE on the minus-strand GBV-B RNA; four "29" clones obtained from GB 2/94 pool by RT-PCR across 5'-to-3'-end-ligated viral GBV-B RNA; and seven "GBB3" clones obtained from GB 2/94 pool by standard RT-PCR. With pGBB as the reference, nucleotide substitutions or insertions are shown as uppercase letters, identical nucleotides are shown as dots and nucleotide deletions are shown as dashes.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 5-7 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4 shows the predicted secondary structure of the 3' UTRs of GBV-B (nts. 9038-9399 of SEQ ID NO: 1) and HCV (nts. 9363-9599 of SEQ ID NO: 6) as determined by the program "mfold" (Genetics Computer Group).

*MV
6/29/06*
Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 21-24 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 6A-6F show the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO: 6) of the infectious hepatitis C virus clone of genotype 1a strain H77C and Figures 6G-6H show the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 7) encoded by the clone.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 25-28 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 7A-7F show the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO: 8) of the infectious hepatitis C virus clone of genotype 1b strain HC-J4 and Figures 7G-H show the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 9) encoded by the clone.